

HILL-ROBERTS NEWS

JANUARY 2010



From the Principal's Desk

As we kick off 2010 we are reminded of all the initiatives, activities, and educational events Hill-Roberts has scheduled from January to June. **Make sure to mark your calendars for:**

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| *Volunteer Parent training dates | *Roller Skating Event | *Curriculum Nights |
| *Are You Smarter Events | *4 th grade end of year celebration | *Golf Tournament |
| *Orientation for 2010-2011 Kindergarten Parents | | *PTO Meetings |
| *School Committee Presentation | *Field Day | *Reading Patch |
| *Family Science Night | *MCAS Testing (grades 3+4) | *Bingo Nights |
| | And many more.... | |

Family Science Night

The Hill-Roberts school council is planning to develop a family science night in February for grades K-4. We are looking for volunteers to facilitate experiments for our students. Complete the flier sent home this week or email (mjoseph@attleboroschools.com) to contact Mr. Joseph if you have an interest in leading a science night booth or willing to volunteer for the event.

Topics for the event could include: weather, electricity, solar system, fossils, robotics, sound, magnets, chemistry, earth science, simple machines, or ANY topic related to science.

We are holding a meeting about science night at Hill-Roberts on January 19th at 3:30. Please join us for planning the family science night as a volunteer or a facilitator on 1/19.

Upcoming January Events

| <u>Date/Time</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|--|--|
| January 4 th | School Reopens |
| January 12 th 7:00 p.m. | PTO Meeting |
| January 18 th | No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| January 19 th 3:45 p.m. | Family science night planning meeting |
| January 20 th 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | 2010-2011 Kindergarten Orientation for Parents |
| January 25 th 3:30pm | School Council Meeting |
| January 25 th 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Roller Skating Event at United Skates of America |
| January 25 th 3:45 p.m. | Family science night planning meeting |
| January 27 th | No School: Teacher professional development day |

I would like to extend my thanks to all of our school volunteers. We value the help we receive from parents/volunteers enormously and realize that we would be unable to provide such quality experiences for the children without your time and expertise.

We want our school to be open and welcoming to all who would like to support the children. We also want to encourage parents and other adults to help teachers in a variety of ways. However, our overriding concern is for the safety of the children in our care.

The Hill-Roberts School Council in cooperation with a volunteer protocol focus group (made up of parents and teachers) developed a volunteer protocol that will be implemented into our school starting January 20, 2009. This protocol sets out our school's expectations, which is to ensure that the children benefit from as much help and support as possible, and are provided at the same time with the best possible security.

As of January 20, 2009 only volunteers who have attended a short (15-20 minute) volunteer training will be eligible to volunteer in the school during the school day. Our goal is to provide ongoing training opportunities to accommodate all our volunteers. We will continue to offer training session to increase the volunteers we have at Hill-Roberts. **The training schedule is posted to the right.**

January Training Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| January 8 th | 8:15 and 1:00 |
| January 13 th | 8:15 and 1:00 |
| January 20 th | 6:00 p.m. |
| January 28 th | 8:15 and 1:00 |

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Kindergarten Newsletter

Happy New Year! Hopefully, everyone had an enjoyable and restful vacation. January is a month filled with new concepts and skills for the kindergarten children. This month the children will read and discuss the theme question: How do people, plants, and animals grow and change? Throughout the month the classes will identify how a panda, children, chameleons, seeds, and friendships change. The new high frequency words this month will be me, with, she, see, look, they, you, of. Continue practicing identifying these words in stories that are sent home as well as stories you read with your child. Math this month will focus on counting, measuring, using shapes and patterns, and solving problems. The kindergarten staff is looking forward to an exciting new year!

1st Grade

Welcome Back! Hopefully everyone had a well rested holiday break. Next Friday, the students will begin taking the unit 2, Reading Street Benchmark. In Mid-January we will begin unit 3 which focuses on changes in our world.

We have just begun unit 5 in Every Day Math. We will be focusing on place value (tens and ones) and using base-10 blocks to help us better understand what it is. We will also be taking a look at symmetry.

Aside from math and ELA, the students will be studying life cycles, and how it affects daily living. Thank you for sending in games and puzzles to use at indoor recess. Keep them coming! We also are always in need of tissues and glue sticks.

Grade 2 News

Well 2009 is behind us and we look forward to our adventures in 2010. As we closed 09, our classes wrote stories about A Snowy Day. In the new year, we will begin Unit 3 in ELA, and read about inventions and creative ideas. In Math, we will begin 3-D & 2-D shapes. Eventually we will construct three-dimensional shapes with straws and twist ties. January should be quite fun.

News from the 3rd Grade

We hope everyone enjoyed their break and are ready for 2010! Can you believe the third grade is already starting Unit 3 in Reading Street? The theme for Unit 3 is all about "People and Nature". We will be reading and discussing ways people and nature are connected. In Everyday Math we will continue with place values in whole numbers and decimals. Once we complete this unit we will move on to geometry. Do not forget to visit the third grade website and your teacher's personal website for additional information.

4th Grade

The fourth grade had a great December! We started working on multiplication using the partial products and lattice methods. Many of the students remembered how to multiply from third grade and have been solving some very difficult problems. In ELA, we wrapped up unit 2. The students enjoyed learning interesting and different facts about our past presidents. The students will be taking the unit 2 benchmark test the first week in January.

Please remember to send your child into school with warm coats, gloves, and hats. We will be going out to recess and we want the students to be prepared! Thank you, Fourth Grade Team



Dinosaurs

By: Naszaya G.

Dinosaurs are very big creatures. They lived over 65 million years ago. Some dinosaurs were meat eaters, but not all of them. Some were vegetarians and they just ate plants and things of that nature. But what happened to them? How come they are no longer with us? About 65 million years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous Period, the Earth was affected by many major changes in the environment. Animal and plant life were plunged into danger. So that is the terrifying incident that caused each and every one of the dinosaurs to become extinct. I wonder what it would be like if dinosaurs were still here?

A New Year's Story

By: Kayla C.

Let me tell you how New Year's came to be. The earliest time New Year's Day was celebrated was in 2500 B.C. in Mesopotamia. In the Middle Ages it was celebrated on March 25th. Beginning in 1582, the day was observed on the 1st of January. In the United States, we celebrate with parties, special events, parades and football games. Most of celebrating starts on New Year's Eve which is December 31. The celebrating continues throughout the day on January 1 with parades and football games.

New Year's Day is celebrated in many different ways and times in different countries and communities. Rosh Hashanah is the start of the Jewish New Year. The Chinese New Year begins in late January or February and lasts one month. Japan celebrates New Year's from January 1 through the 3rd. The entrance to homes in Japan is decorated with ropes made of straw. By using fern, bitter orange and lobster to decorate they believe good fortune, prosperity and a long life will be their reward. In South India, Tamil is celebrated on the Winter Solstice in late December. Pilgrimages and the boiling of new rice are traditions. That's how New Year's Day is celebrated around our world. Happy New Year's!

Ohio

By: Maya M.

There are so many different fun facts to know about Ohio. For example, the state bird of Ohio is the cardinal, the insect is the ladybug, and the animal is the white-tailed deer. There's more! The state song is 'Ohio Beautiful' and the state nickname is the Buckeye state, Buckeye is also the state tree!

The reason I love Ohio is because I visit family there. The last time I was there we went to the world's biggest arcade named Game Works. We also had pizza that is voted 1# in America. It was the best pizza I have ever had in my life! If you have ever wondered what the state of Ohio looks like, it's very large and the streets in Ohio are very straight and confusing. It has a lot of lakes and many different places to go. You should visit Ohio someday too!

Airplanes

By: Dan P.

Airplanes are vehicles that can transport people in the air. The people who drive airplanes are called pilots. Airplanes have 2 types of pilots. One is called the pilot and the other is called a co-pilot. Airplanes have 2 humongous wings that can be over 20 meters long! There are 6 main parts the fuselage, wings, stabilizer [tail wing], rudder, one or more engine, and landing gear. The way the airplane takes off is the wind forces to accelerate downward. I hope you find airplanes interesting.

Podcasters

By: Dalton J.

You might see us every day walk into the office each morning before school starts, but we're not in trouble. Last year we were recommended by our 3rd grade teachers to be podcasters because we are responsible. Every morning we go into the principal's office and get a laptop that is especially made for podcasting and we pick up this super cool microphone. Then we go to this awesome application called Garage Band. Then we plug the microphone in the side of the laptop. Next we have to wait for a message to pop up, so we are ready to go. Fifth, we go to track, new track, real instrument, create. Then we take the microphone put it next to Mr. Joseph's mouth and we click on a red button that starts to record the morning messages as a podcast. When the podcast is over we bring the laptop into Mr. Joseph's office and we share it with iweb then we write the word of the day.

STUDENT SECTION CONTINUED

Tornadoes

By: Shawn G.

If you like tornadoes, you're reading the right article. We don't see a lot of tornadoes near us, so you may not even know what a tornado is. A tornado come from thunderstorms called "super cells" that form when warm air from the ground meets the cool air in the sky. When this happens, a dark funnel shaped cloud spins wind up to 300 miles per hour. Its diameter varies from a couple feet to a mile. Tornadoes usually occur in spring and summer. A lot of tornadoes occur near Texas and the Gulf States. Tornadoes can also form over water. These are called waterspouts. Tornadoes are dangerous and come quickly without a lot of warning, so stay away from them!

Polar bears

By: Elijah T.

An interesting fact about polar bears is that polar bears do not always sleep through the winter. Yes, that means no hibernating! Another interesting fact is that even though the polar bear's fur looks white it does not actually have any color. This fur helps to camouflage polar bears so that it can sneak up on its prey. They can weigh between 700 and 1600 pounds. They can stand up to 4 feet tall and 4 ½ feet at the shoulders. They can run at a speed of 25 mi per hour, on ice! Yes, on ice! Polar bear cubs are born in January and are cared for until March. Polar bears are usually found along the Arctic coasts of North America, Asia and Europe. Polar bears can travel south for the summer by going through Canada.

Martin Luther King Jr.

By: Sammy F.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is coming up! It is always celebrated on the third Monday in January, which is close to Dr. King's birthday on January 15th. This year it is January 18th. Dr. King was born in 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Morehouse College. Then he got a PhD from Boston University in 1955. After school he became a minister of a church. Dr. King was a civil rights leader. He believed that everyone in the United States needed equal rights. So he led nonviolent protests to prove that everyone should be equal. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his work for civil rights. Sadly, he died on April 4th 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee while he was preparing to lead a march.

Squids

What Lurks in the Deep?

By: Danny S.

Ever wonder what lurks in the deep waters of the ocean? You will usually find squids there! Squids have two hearts, a huge brain and eyes about the size of basketballs. Squid breathe through gills and squirt water through their beaks to jet through the water. They can be from 1 to 60 feet long. Squid have 8 suckered tentacles and 2 long feeding ones. They eat fish and crustaceans. They are found on the east coast and the Mediterranean Sea.

Bulldogs

By: Ben L.

Bulldogs are extremely nice dogs and make great pets. The bulldog stands between 13-15 inches tall. They can weigh from 40 to 50 lbs. Did you know that bulldogs are a national symbol of Britain? Sometimes they drool, wheeze, and they might snore. Did you know they cannot swim? Most of the time they absolutely hate exercise! The reason is because they get overheated easy. Their coat is smooth. Their life span is 8-12 years. Overall if you are looking for a great dog, I think you should get a bulldog!

STUDENT SECTION CONTINUED

New York City
By: Madison M.

Have you ever been to New York City, otherwise known as, the Big Apple? Did you know New York is the largest city in the U.S and almost the biggest city in world? New York City covers about 304.8 miles wow! The population in New York City in 1990 was 7,322, 564! Also the population in New York City jumps through December 10- 17 to 8,143,197! New York is a great place to live or vacation because there is so much to do!

Attleboro Animal Shelters

By: Madison L.

Do you like animals? If you do this is the article for you. The Friends of Attleboro Animal Shelter (FAAS) is a volunteer friendly animal shelter. Each year there are hundreds of new animals that come to the shelter that need a home. Each of these animals needs a family that can give them a very good home. Their owners need to be able to care and pay for it. They would need to pay for the food and water, medical care, and any other thing the dog's needs are. They even accept donations from people. How nice. The FAAS is located on Pond Street (near the Seekonk line) in Attleboro, MA.

On their website the FAAS has given suggestions of things that are always needed:

- ★ Postage Stamps
- ★ Laundry Detergent
- ★ Dawn Dishwashing Liquid
- ★ Large White Kitchen Trash Bags
- ★ Paper Towels
- ★ Chlorine Bleach
- ★ Litter Scoops
- ★ Disposable Bowls

These items are items they need once in awhile:

- ★ Band-aids
- ★ Baby wipes
- ★ Bowls that attach to wire cages

If you want to find out some more information go to <http://www.faaspets.org>. These animals really need your help!

Winter

By: David J.

Winter has so many activities that are fun and interesting. And I'm about to list the top 10 things I think you should do in winter:

1. Make Snowballs
2. Sledding
3. Ice skating
4. Ice carving contest
5. Snow fort making contest
6. The freezing foes
7. Making snowmen
8. Drinking hot chocolate (it's an indoor activity)
9. Making snow angels
10. Snow army crawl

Now, there are special clothes you should be dressed in for winter activities. For example, a winter coat, wool hat, heavy-duty gloves, 2 pairs of wool socks, snow boots, and **DEFINITELY** because it's worth it, **SNOW OVERALLS!**

Those are the things to do in winter and how to dress so that you won't be freezing cold. I hope you enjoyed my list, but remember, I'll keep writing in 2010!

Utah

By: Gabrielle C.

Did you know that the state animal of Utah is the Rocky Mountain Elk? That's cool! So do you like dinosaurs? Well the state dinosaur is an Allosaurus. If you ever travel back in time like Grace and her friends from the story the fourth graders read in our Reading Street Books called Grace and the Time Machine, be sure to check out the Allosaurus, but don't get too close because this dinosaur is a meat-eater! If you like singing, sing the Utah state song 'Utah, we love thee'. Also the nickname is the Beehive state! If you want to learn more go to www.factmonster.com and type in Utah!